

Shenandoah Trail Rides Guide

Horse Trip: 25-35 Mile Circuit

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



Old Rag and Rose River Loop

Map: PATC #10 (Central District)

Not a suitable route for wet/winter conditions.

Trip Description: Get up early and ride all day (approximately 30 miles) through spectacular scenery.

Skyline Drive Parking

Parking: Fishers Gap Overlook
Trailer: Goose-neck trailer
Availability: Parking is generally available.

Boundary Parking

Parking: Weakley Hollow (Old Rag) Parking
Trailer: Goose-neck trailer
Availability: Parking is generally available.

Encounters: Route uses county roads outside of the park. (No busy highways are included.) This trail has heavy hiking and/or backpacking use at all times.

Footings: Some sections are rough, rocky, narrow, and/or in wilderness. You and your horse should be in excellent condition.

Option 1 - Total Distance 28.5 Miles

From Fishers Gap Overlook, mile 49.5, exit from the north end of the overlook and cross Skyline Drive.

Turn onto Rose River Road and ride 6.5 miles.

Continue out of the park on the same road which is now state route 670 for 3.1 miles.

Turn left onto state route 643 for 0.7 mile.

Turn left onto state route 600, riding 5.3 miles to the park boundary at Berry Hollow.

Ride into the park for 0.8 mile on Berry Hollow Road.

Turn left onto Old Rag Road and ride 4 miles.

Turn left onto Skyland-Big Meadows Horse Trail. In 1.2 miles, this will bring you to a hitching rail.

In order to view the falls, tie your horse, then hike downhill a short distance (on the blue-blazed Whiteoak Canyon Trail) in order to see the 86-foot waterfall.

Return to your horse and continue on the Skyland-Big Meadows Horse Trail, riding 6.9 miles.

Return to Fishers Gap Overlook near the junction with Rose River Road.

Option 2 - Total Distance 35.1 Miles

You may also ride this circuit by leaving from the boundary at Old Rag Parking.

Park your trailer in the well-marked field which is Old Rag parking.

Ride up the road 0.8 mile to reach the park boundary, entering the park on the same road, which is now Weakley Hollow Road.

Ride 2.5 miles up to Old Rag Road and turn right, riding 4 miles to Skyland-Big Meadows Horse (SBMH) Trail on your left.

Follow the directions above (on SBMH Trail past Whiteoak Canyon Falls, down Rose River Road, 670, 643, 600, up Berry Hollow Road).

At the top of Berry Hollow Road turn right onto Weakley Hollow Road to return to Old Rag Parking (3.3 miles).

Option 3 - Total Distance 28.5 Miles

If you have a small horse trailer, you may make this a 28.5 mile circuit by parking at Rose River boundary parking. You could also try Berry Hollow boundary parking, but only attempt this on weekdays, as this popular, narrow lot can be blocked to a trailer with one poorly parked car.